IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition which consists essentially of Vitamin D and [[a]] calcium ~~salt~~ phosphate, as active principles and a binding agent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, a polyethylene glycol of molecular weight between 300 and ~~1500~~, 400; liquid paraffin and silicone oil, said Vitamin D being present in an amount of 500-1000 I.U. of Vitamin D and said calcium salt being present in a ratio of 1- 2 g of calcium, calculated as elemental calcium, for each 500-1000 I.U. of Vitamin D.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the calcium phosphate is 30-80% by weight calculated on the total composition.

5. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, in which the Vitamin D used is Vitamin D_2 (or ergocalciferol), Vitamin D_3 (or cholecalciferol), or one of their mixtures.

6. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5, in which the vitamin D used is Vitamin D_3.

7. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition in a sachet dosage form according to Claim 1, containing propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol in a quantity comprised between 5-15% by weight calculated on the total composition.

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical tablet according to Claim 1, wherein the binder is liquid paraffin or silicone oil.

9. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition in a sachet dosage form which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Propylene glycol	0.800 g
Sunset Yellow	0.002 g
Colloidal silica	0.120 g
Lemon flavoring	0.100 g
Microcrystalline cellulose- MCC	0.200 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Anhydrous citric acid	0.165 g
Sucrose monopalmitate	0.120 g
Mannitol q.s. to	7.000 g

10. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition in a sachet dosage form which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Polyethylene glycol	0.800 g
Sunset Yellow	0.002 g
Colloidal silica	0.120 g
Lemon flavoring	0.100 g
Microcrystalline cellulose- MCC	0.200 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Anhydrous citric acid	0.165 g

Sucrose monopalmitate	0.120 g
Mannitol q.s. to	7.000 g

11. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition in a tablet dosage form which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Liquid paraffin	0.500 g
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	0.050 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Orange flavoring	0.100 g
Sorbitol q.s. to	4.400 g

12. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition in a tablet dosage form which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Silicone oil	0.500 g
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	0.050 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Orange flavoring	0.100 g
Sorbitol q.s. to	4.400 g

13. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, characterized by the following steps:

a) In a granulator turning at high speed, distributing a binding agent, consisting of propylene glycol or low molecular-weight polyethylene glycols over a calcium salt;
b) Adding colloidal silica, approximately 25% of mannite, citric acid, and sodium saccharin, and mixing for an appropriate time and at an appropriate speed to produce a first mixture;
c) Adding a second mixture, prepared separately, consisting of sucrose palmitate, a suspending agent, flavoring, a coloring agent, approximately 75% of the mannite and the Vitamin D_3, and mixing together with the first mixture to form a granulate; and
d) Distributing the granulate thus obtained into sachets.

14. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, characterized by the following steps:
a) In a granulator turning at high speed, placing a binding agent, consisting of liquid paraffin or silicon oil, over a calcium salt;
b) Adding in order, to a mixture of colloidal silica, carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium saccharin previously sifted, the Vitamin D_3 and sorbitol, mixing thoroughly every time before a new ingredient is added, and pouring the mixture into the rotating granulator and mixing for an appropriate time and at an appropriate speed to form a granulate; and
c) Compressing the granulate to a required weight to obtain tablets.

15. (canceled

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) Method for treatment of nutritional deficiency of calcium and Vitamin D in the elderly, to reduce the loss of bone tissue linked to age and to prevent femoral fractures and other non-vertebral

fractures, in which therapeutically effective quantities of a composition according to Claim 1 are administered to the patient.

18. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 16 for the prevention of osteoporosis induced by treatment with corticosteroids.

19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~in sachet form~~ as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 400 ~~300 and 1500~~ and the pharmaceutical composition is in a sachet.

20. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~in sachet form~~ as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is propylene glycol and the pharmaceutical composition is in a sachet.

21. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~tablet~~ as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is liquid paraffin and the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet.

22. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition ~~tablet~~ as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is silicone oil and the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet.